

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of protecting against loss of downhole tools in wells, the method comprising the steps of making repeated use of a wire rope to suspend downhole tools in wells, the downhole tools being suspended from a downhole end of the wire rope, testing the integrity of the wire rope from time to time according to a maintenance schedule, and shortening the wire rope when the wire rope fails integrity testing. Tests that may be performed are a test of the longitudinal strength of at least one wire from the downhole end of the wire rope, a test of the stretch of the wire rope, a test of the diameter of a wire from the downhole end of the wire rope, a test of the diameter of the downhole end of the wire rope, a test of the flex strength of a wire from the wire rope, a test of the twist strength of a wire from the wire rope; and a test of the weight of a segment of the wire rope.